(c) and (d) Being a natural phenomenon, occurrence of fog cannot be avoided. However, for maintaining continuity of flight operations at various airports, CAT-II and CAT-III system have already been installed. These systems permit operation in low visibility upto 350 meters in the case of CAT-II system and upto 50 meters in the case of CAT-III system. Besides, the availability of CAT-II and CAT-III trained pilots has increased considerably in the country. The number of DGCA authorised pilots has increased from 809 in the year 2005 to 1660 in 2007 (till November).

Standby X-ray machines at metro airports

*170. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the logic in having standby X-ray machines at metro airports in the country despite shortage of space; and

(b) if it is not rationale, whether Government would stop such practice, which is national waste?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) X-ray machines are used for non-invasive screening of passengers' baggages by security staff at the airports. These X-ray machines, like other elector-mechanical equipment, are prone to unserviceable contingencies.

During such contingencies, preventive and/or breakdown maintenance, the relevant X-ray machine is not available for use. Repair of X-ray machine sometimes takes long hours. During this period, operation of flight at the airport gets affected. In order to overcome the problem, standby X-ray machines have been provided at major airports.

All the security related equipment have been installed as per the requirements and technical specifications prescribed by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

(b) Does not arise.

Exposure of public sector banks to realty and capital market sectors

* 171. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector banks, because of their increased exposure to realty and capital market sectors, would suffer in the event of repetition of boom-burst cycles;

(b) if so, whether any measures have been initiated to contionuously monitor the situation and plug the systemic problems that may crop up and advise the banks to reduce their exposure to the said sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The exposure of public sector banks (PSBs) to real estate and capital market sectors has increased during the period March, 2006 to March, 2007. However, the growth of such exposure, as a percentage of gross advances, is marginal.